

RESPONSE

Claims 1-50 are pending. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 26 for the purposes of overcoming Examiner's objection under lack of clarity. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at paragraph 0050-0067 and in Figs. 2B-4B of the specification. Applicants have not amended these claims for the purposes of overcoming Examiner's prior art rejection.

I. Objection Under Lack of Clarity and Traverse

Claims 1 and 26 were objected to under Lack of Clarity, as being unclear. This amendment changes the language of claims 1 and 26 to address Examiner's concerns. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Traverse

Claims 1, 3, 18-20, 26, 28 and 43-45 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Wach et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,477). The PTO has the burden of establishing that a reference teaches each and every feature of a claim in order for that reference to anticipate the claim. MPEP 2131. Wach et al. does not teach each and every feature of claim 1 and 26, the independent claims on which dependent claims 3, 18-20, 28 and 43-45 depend. Since Wach et al. does not anticipate the independent claims, Wach et al. does not anticipate the dependent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Wach et al. teaches several ways to manipulate light inside the fiber optic. Figure 15 in Wach et al. teaches ways to manipulate regional contours by contacting two fiber optic segments so that their end faces are adjoining (Col. 25, lines 38-41). Wach et al. does not teach that a distance separates the end faces of the segments as suggested by Examiner. Instead, Wach et al. teaches adjoining the segments so that the contoured end faces touch. Wach et al. does not even suggest having a distance to separate the segments because there would be no advantage to having such an intermediate region in manipulating the light inside the fiber optic.

Wach et al. does not teach a predetermined distance between the first boundary and the second boundary. The contoured end faces in Wach et al. touch to create an interface to transmit

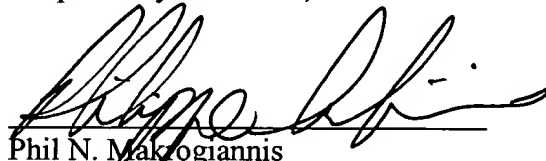
light from one fiber optic segment to the other. Therefore, Wach et al. does not teach each and every feature of claim 1 and 26. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Fee Authorization

Should any extension of time and/or fee be necessary for timely submission of this paper, such extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 01-2213**. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account.

Date: August 1, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



Phil N. Makrogiannis
Reg. No. 47,766
Attorney for Applicants

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: 22896
APPLERA CORPORATION
Applied Biosystems Group
Patent Department – M/S 432-2
850 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, California 94404
TEL: 650-554-2164
FAX: 650-638-6677